

# 2013 Needs Assessment for Montgomery County

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## Accomplishments

1. The Helping Montgomery Families Initiative (HMFI) in partnership with Montgomery Public Schools (MPS), Montgomery County Commission and City of Montgomery implemented the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) in all 53 traditional schools during the 2012-2013 school term.
2. HMFI assisted MPS with direct oversight and monitoring of attendance related activities throughout the term.
3. HMFI/TIP Program sent 12,705 attendance letters to parents and guardians. They also sent 2,802 warning letters in the suspension program; 129 assessments for 353 children were completed.
4. Community Referrals and Linkages to Services totaled 507 for the attendance program and 360 for the suspension program.
5. MPS/District Resource Officers served 1,062 compulsory letters and conducted 301 home visits.
6. A volunteer from United Cerebral Palsy and member of the Early Care and Education subcommittee of the Montgomery County collected brochures from CPC agencies on quarterly basis and distributed these brochures among the 11 Montgomery County branch libraries. This was a 2012 no/low cost action step.
7. Early Care and Education Subcommittee hosted CELEBRATE CHILDREN 2013 event in June 2013. Developmental information was made available to parents by 18 participating agencies. The event was to spotlight the work of the Children's Policy Council in Montgomery County.
8. The Montgomery City-County Public Library provided 498 thematic story time presentations to preschool children in the libraries and through the outreach program at community childcare centers. During this time frame over 2,500 preschool aged children were served by the Montgomery City-County

Library system.

9. Alabama Partnership for Children, through a volunteer from ECE, distributed 2,300 Parenting Kits to new mothers at Montgomery's three hospitals and 330 Don't Be In The Dark About Child Care brochures to Montgomery County libraries. An additional 860 Don't Be In The Dark About Child Care brochures were distributed statewide.

10. Alabama Partnership for Children hosted a training on the implementation of Community Cafes for Montgomery county and statewide agencies. Community Cafés were held at Bethany Child Development Center and Family Guidance Center for a total of 32 Montgomery county parents. Community Cafes are a tool of Strengthening Families, a research-based, cost-effective strategy to increase family stability, enhance child development and reduce child abuse and neglect.

11. Alabama Partnership for Children distributed 156 FOCUS packets in Montgomery County) that contain free resources and materials surrounding the month's FOCUS (i.e. safety & security, parent & family involvement, quality early care & education, developmental milestones, health) for distribution in local communities.

12. Gift of Life educated a total of 1,169 adults from May 2012 to the present on the 'Born Learning' Initiative by providing handouts targeting their child's specific age and discussing age specific ways to stimulate that child and assist with language development or by showing a video regarding age appropriate development and stimulation.

13. From May 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013, Gift of Life has provided 'Back to Sleep' education/brochures as well as education regarding ways to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome and cope with a crying baby to almost 1,330 pregnant women in Montgomery County. Of these, 111 mothers were identified as having certain risk factors that qualified them to receive a Graco Pack'n Play® crib through the Crib For Kids (CFK) Program, a partnership between Gift of Life and the Alabama Child Death Review Team.

14. The Gift of Life Maternal Education Program in collaboration with the Montgomery Public Schools (MPS) assists with the needs of the pregnant teens in the school system to achieve optimal outcomes for mother and baby. The Maternal Educator provides instruction on parenting skills, along with many other topics. By addressing needs of these teen parents, hopefully they can complete their education and be self-sufficient in providing for their own children. Also, as a direct result of the teen parents completing their education, they will be better equipped to help teach their children to read.

15. The Gift of Life Nurse- Family Partnership (NFP) currently has 84 mothers and 66 babies enrolled in the program. The NFP is an evidence based, nurse home visitation program that improves the well-being and self-sufficiency of low-income, first-time mothers and their children. A community that has a NFP can expect an improvement in regards to child health and development, along with mothers having healthier pregnancies, and mothers becoming more self-sufficient.

16. The Gift of Life Child Health Access Project provides a system of tracking and care coordination, beginning at birth to age 1, to new mothers enrolled in the Gift of Life Maternity Care Program and delivering at the 3 Montgomery area hospitals. Through this program new mothers are educated about their babies' healthcare needs and assisted, if needed, with getting their babies to their chosen provider on schedule. Care Coordinators keep well-child and immunization records on each enrolled child, and assists families with resources concerning the health of the baby. Parents are educated on 'Back to Sleep'. Also, education is provided on Shaken Baby Syndrome and healthy ways to cope with a crying baby. Since June 4, 2012 to the present there have been 540 babies enrolled into this program.

17. The Gift of Life has distributed 19 packs of diapers within the various programs in the agency to patients in crisis situations since June 2012. Gift of Life, through its partnership with community agencies and organizations willing to sponsor diaper drives, has been privileged to 'house' a diaper bank. Safety net programs such as Food Stamps and WIC do not cover the cost of diapers. If a baby's mother cannot afford diapers, the baby may be in the same diaper for many hours. The child could then

develop a severe rash that could require medical attention. Also, the likelihood of child abuse increases when a baby is crying from the discomfort of a soiled diaper in a household that is already under financial stress.

18. Children's Rehabilitation Service served over 550 children within the Montgomery County. These children range in age from birth to 21 years old as well as the adult Hemophilia population. The CRS staff also continues to attend various trainings and participates in activities throughout the community to help better serve children with special health care needs and their families.

19. CRS also provided nursing and social work staff to volunteer and coordinate with the Camp Gifted Program at ASU this past summer and will be working with this program again this summer. This camp is designed for children and youth with special health care needs, ages 12-21, who have a special interest in visual and performing arts.

20. CRS provided direct assistance to Montgomery parents of children with special health care needs in school advocacy for IEP development and 504 plans with staff member serving on Montgomery Public School's Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.

21. CRS provided collaborative training and resources offered with Family Voices of Alabama including 'Using the Care Notebook: Training for Hispanic Families' and '2013 Partners in Care Summit: Medical Home and Transition'

22. CRS worked with the Montgomery Share the Care Initiative to encourage and support caregivers of children with special health care needs as they seek effective respite and resources.

23. One Place Family Justice Center (FJC) started an educational module on Internet safety.

24. One Place FJC started a Human Trafficking Task Force to address sex slavery and human trafficking.

25. One Place FJC assisted and served 264 new clients; 247 were identified as domestic abuse victims; 23 were identified as sexual assault victims and 10 were identified stalking victims. Others include dating violence, elder abuse and non-victims seeking service.

26. One FJC received the help of 15 volunteers totaling more than 736 volunteer hours. They also had 366 hours of service provided by interns.

# 2013 Needs Assessment for Montgomery County

## First Priority

### Need related to children of this county

Sustain the Helping Montgomery Families Initiative (HMFI) and expand the Truancy Intervention Program to more schools.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Infrastructure within the County District Attorney's office</li><li>2. Resources expanded the Truancy Intervention Program to other schools</li><li>3. Partnership with Montgomery Public Schools</li><li>4. Davis Treatment Truancy Tract to include Parenting module with Credit Recovery</li><li>5. Executive Director</li><li>6. HMFI Director</li><li>7. Multi-Disciplinary Team comprised of representatives from 12 community agencies to include public and not-for profit</li><li>8. Partnerships with over 50 community organizations that serve as referral sources</li><li>9. Juvenile Risks and Resources Evaluation Committee to monitor progress</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Permanent funding to sustain HFMI</li><li>2. Grant request for district attorney to prosecute truancy cases</li></ol>

### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Secure permanent funding for the Helping Montgomery Families Initiative (HMFI) through a community shared approach by seeking resources from Montgomery Public Schools and various levels of government to include city, county, state, private sector
2. Expand HMFI's Truancy Intervention Program to other schools within the district with a focus on early intervention in the truancy cycle.
3. Implement processes/procedures contained in the Truancy Intervention Logic Model within all schools that focus on attendance/data collection to include accuracy and adhering to current policies. Utilize existing brochures for the program with parents/guardians at PTA meetings; place in schools and within the community. Utilize various media outlets to include news articles, radio and PSA's.
4. District-wide training for Montgomery Public Schools to insure consistent record keeping.
5. Hold press releases to picture parent's arrest to increase public awareness

# 2013 Needs Assessment for Montgomery County

## Second Priority

### Need related to children of this county

Improve the lives of young children by informing parents of available community resources  
Create accessible sources for parents/family guardians on a variety of topics concerning child development, neglect and abuse, early education and information on available community resources that address these issues.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Existing programs to distribute this type of information to new mothers giving birth in any of the 3 Montgomery hospitals (Parenting Kit program operated by ALABAMA PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN and GIFT OF LIFE Maternal Care Program)</li><li>2. The Early Care and Education Subcommittee purchased brochure display racks (2011) for county branch libraries (11) and created a system to collect available information from participating agencies to take materials to local libraries (2012).</li><li>3. The ECE subcommittee hosts a yearly public service event that provides a venue for CPC agencies to inform parents of available services. In 2013 the name of the event was changed to CELEBRATE CHILDREN 2013.</li><li>4. Brochures Don't be in the DARK ABOUT CHILD CARE (produced by Voices for Alabama's Children and Alabama Partnership for Children) and Let's Talk Facts: child care in Alabama (produced by FOCAL and Alabama Child Care Alliance) are available for distribution.</li><li>5. Through 2-1-1 CONNECT agencies can be listed for referral.</li><li>6. Family Guidance Center of Alabama manages the child care subsidy program where people can apply for financial aid to assist with day care needs.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Media exposure to increase parental awareness about licensed/ exempt day cares.</li><li>2. Locate or develop resources to provide after-school care and full-time summer care for children with developmental disabilities.</li><li>3. Locate or develop respite services for families who have children with disabilities.</li><li>4. Link Montgomery Public Schools System's teen mothers with available day care options.</li><li>5. Acute care options for children with mental health issues requiring hospitalization in Montgomery County (no beds current exist).</li><li>6. Recruit additional child psychiatrists to Montgomery to address needs of area.</li></ol>

### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. NO COST/ LOW COST IDEA: CPC member organizations can bring supply of brochures (including DON'T BE IN THE DARK and Let's Talk Fact brochures to each quarterly CPC meeting and the ECE representative will collect and distribute these brochures to the libraries. (continue to do so from 2012 plan)

2. NO COST/LOW COST IDEA: Seek agency that requires volunteer hours to work with ALABAMA PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN's parenting kit assembly and distribution program in order to have program continue into the future. (This 2012 action step has not yet been realized.)
3. Alabama Department of Mental Health and Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority work within the parameters of new Medicaid funding program to create acute care options for children with mental health issues that require hospitalization.
4. Montgomery Public School System work with the Child Care Subsidy program at Family Guidance Center to enroll student-parents who need childcare financial assistance.

# 2013 Needs Assessment for Montgomery County

## Third Priority

### Need related to children of this county

Sustain One Place Family Justice Center

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Building</li><li>2. Twenty-one partnering agencies</li><li>3. Board of directors</li><li>4. Executive Director</li><li>5. Local government support</li><li>6. Staff</li><li>7. Operations Coordinator and PFA Investigator Victim's Advocate</li><li>8. Shared funding by City and County government</li><li>9. Created a web page and Face Book account to educate community on services provided by the agency</li><li>10. Sunshine Center</li><li>11. Child Protect</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Sustained funding</li><li>2. Continue to grow and expand staffing, partners and volunteers</li><li>3. Utilize and organize volunteers to help develop a strategic plan</li><li>4. \$5 million renovation to building donated by Aronov Realty</li></ol>

### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Meet with City and County before annual budget meetings and continue to apply for grant opportunities.
2. Bring on new partners with additional staff and continue to pursue federal, state and local grants with staff positions.
3. Work with local churches and civic groups such as the Junior League to recruit volunteers. Solicit the Montgomery Police Departments for volunteers from the Volunteers in Police Service Program.
4. Meet with stake holders, community partners and the principals that will govern to establish a strategic financial sustainability plan. Plan a strategy to meet with City and County officials before their annual budget meetings.
5. Use volunteers resource to develop strategic plan.